

Yesterday, Rep. Pete Stark welcomed San Leandro student Darek Correo to Washington and congratulated him for winning the Congressional High School Art Competition for the 13th District of California. Correo's drawing "Sunset" was selected in a district wide contest and is being displayed in the U.S. Capitol along with other contest winners from across the country.

"I congratulate Darek for his beautiful drawing and am proud to see it representing our community in the halls of Congress," Rep. Stark said.

Correo's drawing depicts a horse and rider overlooking a sunset. The drawing was done in colored pencil, Correo's preferred art medium.

"I've liked to draw ever since I was little," Correo said. "I didn't believe my teacher at first when she told me I won (the contest)." Correo, 17, will be a senior at San Leandro High School next year. He hopes to pursue a college education and a career as an artist. Correo's father, Ernie Correo, noted that, while his son never drew on the walls of their home when he was young, "we did go through a lot of paper."

Correo and his father traveled to Washington to be honored for his artwork. During their stay, they had lunch with Congressman Stark in the Congressional Members Dining Room, toured the Capitol, and visited other Washington landmarks.

Rep. Stark stated: "I'm glad that Darek and his father could come to Washington to celebrate his award-winning drawing. I commend Darek and all the other students from our area who participated in this contest. And I thank our teachers for all that they do to encourage and educate our children. "